

REMARKS

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims as follows. Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 49-51 and 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 14 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0034630 A1 (Mayer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,580 (Takano). Claim 52 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over www.inventors.net (InoNet) in view of U.S. Patent No 6,564,246 B1 (Varma). Claims 53-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet in view of Varma and further in view of Mayer. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 46, and 48-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet in view of Mayer and further in view of Varma. Claim 82 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer in view of InoNet and further in view of Varma. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet, Mayer, and Varma and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0047276 A1 (Eisenhart).

It is initially submitted that since the various pages of the InoNet reference have various publication dates, the various pages should be considered separate references. Future analysis of such is respectfully requested.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, of independent

Claims 1, 14, 46, and 82, the Examiner states that these claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, the Examiner argues that certain claims include a recitation of “determining by the first computing device a confidentiality level for the proposal for inventions” (Office Action, Page 2). Claim 1 includes the recitation of “determining by the first computing device a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, wherein information is provided in the forum according to a level of confidentiality. These steps are disclosed in the specification. For example, lines 11-14 on page 31 disclose “the Security System 150 may have a central processing unit (CPU) which uses a heuristic analysis program to weigh these factors and determine an appropriate confidentiality level.”

Second, the recitation of “wherein information is provided in the forum according to a level of confidentiality” (Office Action, Page 2) is properly supported in the specification. For example, the paragraph beginning on line 5 page 36 which discloses posted information could have different levels of confidentiality so that, for example, project manager could post notes to each other without necessarily informing all the members of the co-inventors pool.

Third, the recitation of “a security system structured and arranged for determining a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, for maintaining records regarding confidentiality levels and authorizing access to secured information, the security system including at least one microprocessor,” (Office Action, Pages 2-3) is properly disclosed by the specification. For example, see the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 15 and FIGs. 3, 4, and

7.

Accordingly, there is proper support in the specification for the subject limitations and request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, of Claims 1, 14, 46, and 82.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, the Examiner states "how does the server create the proposal?" The Examiner's statement is unclear as Claim 14 includes the recitation of an Invention Proposal Server for receiving a proposal for invention and creating a proposal for invention file from the proposal for invention, which, complies with the enablement requirement. Accordingly, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, of Claim 14 should be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claims 49-51 and 54-55 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner alleges that the claims fail to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully disagree. The specification discloses collecting fees and that "in an Internet embodiment, people could subscribe to one or all of the services by paying a fee" recited at page 12, paragraph beginning on line 10 of the Specification fully supports "a fee collection system". Further, it is well known in the art that when paying fees using the Internet, a fee collection system would have to be used. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, of Claims 49-51 and 54-55 should be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 14, the Examiner states that the combination of Mayer and Takano teach each and every limitation of Claim 14. Mayer teaches a method and system for matching candidates to available job positions. Takano teaches displaying on a display unit a list of all pieces of the invention report information registered in a specification file management table or only those satisfying a specific condition. In essence, then, Takano teaches a system for conveniently accessing desired information, rather than a security system for preventing unauthorized access to information based upon levels of confidentiality. In contrast to that which is taught by Takano, Claim 14 includes the recitation of a security system structured and arranged for determining a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, for maintaining records regarding confidentiality levels, and authorizing access to secured information, the security system including at least one microprocessor, which is neither taught nor suggested by Mayer or Takano or the combination thereof. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 14 should be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 52, it is respectfully submitted that Varma is an invalid reference under §103(c), since the subject matter of the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Therefore, Varma, must be removed as a reference and the "Finality" of the present Office Action must be withdrawn. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 52 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claims 1 and 46, Claims 1 and 46 are

patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to the rejection of Claim 52. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejection of Claims 1 and 46 is respectfully requested.

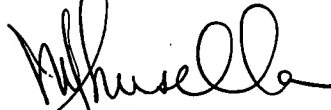
Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 82, Claim 82 is patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to the rejection of Claim 52. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejection of Claim 82 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 14, 46, 52 and 82 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51 and 53-56, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51 and 53-56 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining

matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", written over the printed name.

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